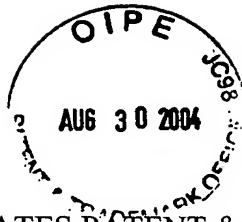


DOCKET NO: 250227US2X DIV



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
SHINJI IINO, ET AL. : EXAMINER: PATEL, P.H.
SERIAL NO: 10/802,882 :
FILED: MARCH 18, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2829
FOR: INSPECTION METHOD AND :
INSPECTION APPARATUS :

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

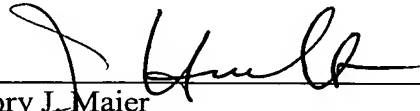
In response to the communication dated June 30, 2004, and further in response to the Restriction Requirement therein, Applicants herein provisionally elect, without traverse, the invention of Group I, Claims 1-4, noted in the Requirement to be "drawn to method of inspecting a target object, classified in class 324, subclass 765."

Application No. 10/802,882
Reply to Office Action of 06/30/04

In view of this provisional election without traverse, an early and favorable examination of elected Group I, Claims 1-4 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440

Customer Number

22850

James D. Hamilton
Registration No. 28,421

GJM/RFC/jmp
Tel. No.: (703) 413-3000
Fax No.: (703) 413-2220